

MEMO

DATE: April 6, 2006

TO: Community, Economic and Human development Committee

FROM: Joseph Carreras, Lead Regional Planner, 213-236-1856, Carreras@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Blueprint Grant Work Program

SUMMARY:

Staff will review the two year work program for the recently approved \$1.258 million dollar California Blueprint Grant. The review will cover both the Compass planning and implementation activities and the 20 year housing/mobility blueprint planning tasks and products. This program is a complement to the Governor's *GoCalifornia* initiative to significantly improve the transportation system throughout California. Only the first year of the program is approved. The second year of funding will depend on performance and products completed in the first year. SCAG will be required to submit an updated grant application before the July 1, 2006 deadline for the balance of its \$2.4 million grant request.

BACKGROUND:

SCAG received \$1.258, 450 more than double the funding of any other single MPO (ABAG). But the largest award went to the San Joaquin Valley consortium of 8 MPOs - \$2 million. In all seven Regional Blueprint Planning Program grants are being awarded for Fiscal Year 2005-2006 as follows:

1. San Joaquin Valley (SVJ) includes the eight Valley MPOs: \$2,000,000

Merced County Association of Governments, Council of Fresno County Governments, Kern Council of Governments, Kings County Association of Governments, Madera County Transportation Commission, San Joaquin Council of Governments, Stanislaus Council of Governments, Tulare County Association of Governments

2. Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG): \$1,258,450

3. Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) / Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG): \$500,000

4. Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG): \$420,000

5. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG): \$409,750

6. San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG): \$226,800

7. Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG): \$185,000

The Blueprint Grant approval letter for the first year's work plan and the approved tasks and products are provided in the attachment.

California Regional Blueprint Planning Grant Fact Sheet



Southern California Association of Governments

Project Goal

The **Compass Blueprint** project is designed to refine regional growth policies with local planning efforts through more subregional and local scenario planning and development forecasting. It will begin implementation of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) 2% strategy through strategic infill, transit-oriented development, and corridor revitalization.

Project Description

To integrate the regional growth vision with local planning efforts, SCAG will: provide assistance to local communities in updating general plans, identify areas with potential for growth along transportation systems, promote integration of transportation and housing, analyze factors relating to mode choice and develop scenarios for transit oriented development (TOD), identify changes in mobility and emission levels associated with shifts in development, and develop land use and transportation performance measures.

Award: \$ 1,258,450 FY 2005/06

Products

- Updated general plans
- Integrated Transportation and Housing Plan
- Report on maximizing TOD potential
- Report on Transportation Modeling Impacts over a twenty-year period and adoption of a Preferred Growth Vision
- Report on Potential Compass/Blueprint Incentive Options
- Performance Indicators

Who Benefits

Communities in the SCAG region will benefit from this effort to integrate the regional policies related to transportation and land use with local planning efforts.



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Budget: \$1,573,062.50 Grant: \$1,258,450 Match: \$314,612.50
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Partnership Regional Blueprint Planning

W.E. 07-290. Southern California Compass Growth Vision Implementation Program

Manager: Lynn Harris

Program Objectives:

The objectives are to promote and expand the SCAG Compass 2% Strategy and transportation planning efforts and integrate the Compass Vision and 2% Implementation Strategy into local plans. Another objective is to refine the Compass regional growth policies through more subregional and local 2% opportunity area scenario planning and development forecasting. SCAG will demonstrate how the Regional Blueprint Planning grant will be used to plan for the region's 20 year housing (consistent with Government Code Section 65584 et. Seq.) and employment needs as they relate to the regional transportation plan and improving mobility. SCAG's 2% strategic infill, transit-oriented development, and transportation corridor revitalization strategy has been modeled to lead to significant improvements in regional mobility, particularly reducing vehicle miles traveled, improving transit rider ship and reducing fuel consumption and mobile emissions.

Program Accomplishments:

In 2003, SCAG launched the Growth Visioning program with extensive public outreach and media campaign. In 2004, the SCAG Regional Council approved the Compass Growth Vision and Implementation Framework. In 2005, SCAG convened the Compass Partnership made up of business and community leaders to meet quarterly and serve as an additional extension of the Compass program into local communities. SCAG has for use many resources and services, developed during FY 2004-2005, that can be used to assist communities throughout the region.

Suggested Blueprint Work Element Tasks:

Task 1 - Demonstration Project Expansion. Identify and prioritize transit villages, infill opportunity areas in centers and along transportation corridors and mixed use zones and other critical growth opportunity areas for demonstration project assistance through a suite of Compass/ Blueprint services. The goal is to promote mobility, reduce VMT and lessen congestion and hours of delay on the transportation network. The proposed impacts on travel behavior and mode share due to land use updates and changes in development standards will also be a factor in project selection. The transportation connection must be clearly set forth and only appropriate demonstrations will be considered for support using SCAG's existing

Compass suite of planning and transportation services. Requests for assistance will be reviewed for funding eligibility and priority based on Compass/Blueprint priority selection factors adopted in advance to improve regional mobility and job housing balance through Regional Transportation Plan conformance.

Task 2 - Compass Land Use/General Plan Updates. Provide assistance to local communities to better tie their local transportation systems to the regional transportation system along the Compass 2% Strategy/Blueprint areas. This activity will focus on the communities identified that have out dated General Plans, including circulation, housing and land use elements, etc. The activity will provide assistance to engage the public through scenario planning in better integration of transportation and land use planning. The impact of urban design, public engagement through scenario planning, local land use zoning and development standards on attracting new investment and improving the integration of transportation and land use planning will be prioritized for assistance (i.e. promoting pedestrian friendliness, increasing transit oriented and mixed use development opportunities in centers and corridors etc.). Requests for services will demonstrate how improvements to the transportation system and mobility will be achieved in order to qualify for land use and planning assistance.

Task 3 – Focus Growth Along Transportation System. Prioritizing new growth where unused capacity exists in Compass 2% strategy areas will maximize the use of the existing transportation network and help preserve stable single family neighborhoods and defines the impacts of more or less sprawl on environmentally sensitive areas and productive farmland. The Compass/ Blueprint vision promotes an integrated transportation and land use strategy for the region. The housing capacity analysis for Compass 2% critical growth opportunity areas will evaluate built and forecasted Regional Transportation Plan housing capacity across the region, subregions and major corridors through scenario planning alternatives and visioning choices for public review and environmental justice evaluation. This analysis will inform regional transportation modeling of mobility benefits and costs related to varying the intensity of development in Compass 2% critical growth opportunity areas. The built capacity analysis will test various development footprint and density scenarios for the region. It will assess the impact of new development near existing transportation infrastructure and where unused capacity exists versus development elsewhere.

Task 4 – Promoting a More Efficient Urban Form through an Integrated Transportation & Housing Plan. Land use and housing goals must support the regional transportation investment strategy and balanced development goals that mitigate against congestion “hot spots” and contribute to the reduction of vehicle miles traveled and other mobility goals. The Regional Blueprint shall include an allocation of housing for all cities and counties

within the region for a period of at least 20 years, including projected housing need for an initial 10-year planning period, based on the following objectives:

- Increasing housing supply & mix of housing types, tenure & affordability
- Promoting infill development & socioeconomic equity, protection of environmental & agricultural resources, & encouraging efficient development patterns
- Promoting improved jobs-housing relationships, with housing near jobs
- Balancing disproportionate household income distributions
- Enhancing mobility and related transportation objectives.

Task 5 – Transit Oriented Development. Prepare a built capacity analysis using existing zoning and current housing density around the 290 existing and planned transit stations and rapid bus stops in the region. Define analysis area as 1/3 mile circle around each station. Relate daily boarding's to existing density and project potential changes in ridership and shifts in transportation mode choice that may result from changes in density and land use around transit station areas and stops. Develop scenarios for accommodating future growth within station areas at various levels of built capacity and zoning. Estimate how much of forecasted future growth may be accommodated near transit investment areas and evaluate how the transit system may be improved to accommodate potential changes in use. Utilize parcel data from the California Infill Study to complement analysis.

Task 6 - Transportation Scenario Evaluation of Compass Benefits. Use scenario planning to identify changes in mobility and emission levels associated with shifts in development allocation or density in Compass 2% Strategy areas versus allocation of new housing elsewhere. Develop improvements in SCAG modeling of transportation benefits due to integrated land use and transportation planning. Working with our local cities and counties, COGs and County Transportation Commissions (CTCs), SCAG will develop, model and analyze many constrained and non-constrained growth scenarios to refine our policy based growth forecast adopted in the 2004 RTP.

Task 7 – Public Outreach. Consensus building activities such as workshops and hearings on integrated housing and transportation allocation and investment strategies will be conducted. The distribution of existing and future housing needs will be in proportion to 2007 Regional Transportation Plan forecast and Compass Blueprint scenarios. The housing allocation plan will distribute identified shares of need at the regional, subregional and local jurisdictional level. Various policy-related factors will be weighed and tested. Workshops on proposed housing allocation assignments, transportation impact scenarios and job distributions will be conducted through a defined period for

local, public and regional stakeholder review. The total housing need and consistency with the Regional Transportation Plan growth forecast will be maintained throughout the process. Enhanced outreach will be directed toward low income and environmental justice communities to ensure their active participation. A web based approach will be integrated into this effort public outreach effort to help maximize public involvement. The public workshops will include the use of innovative scenario planning and visualization tools and incorporate environmental considerations. All local revisions and housing allocation adjustments will be certified through a public process and a Compass/ Blueprint trading and incentive plan.

Task 8: Compass Trading and Incentives Plan. The Compass/ Blueprint Trading and Transportation Incentive Program will evaluate incentives that will promote mobility, transit rider ship, and pedestrian friendly development shorter commutes and encourage housing “allocation” shifts and increased density in Compass 2% strategy areas along the transportation system by allowing a public outreach period which allows trading across cities and counties. The effort will be guided by a Compass/ blueprint incentive plan that will identify available transportation incentives for jurisdictions taking on more need such as priority access to funding and enhanced planning and technical assistance services provided by transportation commissions, the state and region. Incentives could include priority status in various infrastructure funding processes, including the RTP and RTIP.

Task 9: Performance Indicators and Community Toolbox. Develop land use and transportation indicators and performance measures to refine and monitor the region’s progress in meeting regional mobility goals and producing more housing to meet its own job and population based demands for housing.

Additionally, the Housing Southern Californians and Compass websites will be updated to display housing allocation and capacity scenarios and mobility and air quality benefits of different urban form alternatives. The web portals will also allow the display of Compass/Blueprint scenarios and provide access to a community toolbox to address local housing development goals and win public support for the Compass/Blueprint 2% strategy while prioritizing RTP/ RTIP service and investment strategies in support of the preferred Vision.

Products

1. **Demonstration Projects** – Final reports for a variety of plans and projects that focus on local strategies to embrace principles of Compass Growth Vision and 2% Strategy. Through a marketing campaign and promotional events,

each will serve as a model to other communities to promote replicability throughout the region.

2. **Updated General Plans and other land use plans** in willing cities and counties in support of the Compass blueprint goals and the 2% strategy. Model case studies will be produced to show how land use planning may support regional mobility goals.
3. **Development Capacity Scenarios for Areas Along Transportation System:** Refine the Compass 2% mixed-use/housing opportunity area and evaluate built and forecasted land use and housing capacity across the region
4. **Integrated Transportation and Housing Plan** consistent with the 2% Strategy to accommodate workforce and population growth while meeting the Compass mobility and sustainability goals
5. **Report on maximizing transit-oriented development potential in Southern California.** This information will be provided to local governments, subregions and transportation commissions as a planning tool for encouraging the full utilization of existing and planned transit system investments.
6. **Report on Transportation Modeling Impacts of future growth over the next 20 years and Adoption of a Preferred Growth Vision.** Blueprint benefits in Compass 2% Strategy areas versus other areas in the region will be identified through scenario planning and public evaluation. This will inform future growth allocation in the 2007 RTP and subsequent updates
7. **Development of a Public and Local Outreach Process in support of the Compass Blueprint.** The public outreach will focus on transportation benefits of alternative housing distribution and varying land use intensity in Compass 2% critical growth opportunity areas.
8. **Report on Potential Compass/ Blueprint Incentive Options.** This report will identify incentives needed to support growth in Compass 2% strategy areas above local input as part of the 2007/8 Regional Transportation Plan and subsequent updates.
9. **Performance Indicators and Community Toolbox.** The web portal and toolbox will provide a basis for local input for potential transportation outcomes and objectives in Compass and the 2% Strategy. They will also allow future monitoring of Blueprint housing/transportation/land use scenario outcomes.